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State Dept. Gives Medals For Heroism

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The State Department bestowed its highest awards yesterday on diplomats who braved fire in the Congo and in Viet-Nam.

Secretary Dean Rusk personally presented the Department's newly designated top honor—named "the Secretary's Award"—to five U.S. consular staff members held hostage by Congolese rebels at Stanleyville from Aug. 5 until Nov. 24, 1964, when they were rescued by U.S. air-lifted Belgian paratroopers.

Also honored were Barbara Robbins, the secretary who died in the March 30 terrorist bombing of the American Embassy in Saigon, and three South Vietnamese employees of the Embassy who were killed in the bombing.

Given awards for heroism were diplomats Lewis R. Macfarlane, for bravery in the face of rebel attack in Bukavu, Congo, last August, and Charles H. Thomas, for bravery in performing hazardous duties in Bolivia in December, 1963.

Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor received from Rusk a "Distinguished Honor Award" presented to the American Mission in Saigon as a unit.

The presentation of these and about 350 other awards took place at the Department's annual awards ceremony.

Selected for "Distinguished Honor Awards" were:

John R. Clingerman, for bravery in rescuing hostages from Stanleyville;

Albert A. Geisecke, for more than 30 years of distinguished embassy service at Lima, Peru;

Lincoln Gordon, "for distinguished service, initiative and enterprise in the discharge of his duties as U.S. Ambassador to Brazil";

Leonard Unger, "for distinguished service as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Laos from July 1962 to December 1964."